

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 11, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN WARNER, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

## RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

## SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will acknowledge and pay tribute to our veterans with a moment of silence beginning at 11 a.m. Following the moment of silence, we have a number of Members who would like to make statements regarding Veterans Day. Those tributes will continue until 12 p.m., and I invite Senators to come to the floor during this period. Also, we have a resolution honoring this country's veterans and we will consider that resolution during today's session.

At noon, it is my expectation to begin consideration of the Syria accountability bill. That bill will be considered under the 90-minute debate limitation and, therefore, Members can expect a vote on passage following today's policy luncheon.

The Senate will recess today from 12:30 until 2:15 to accommodate the Republican Party luncheon. The Senate will recess tomorrow for that same period for the Democratic Party luncheon to meet.

Today, I would also hope to consider the Defense authorization conference report. Chairman WARNER will be here for his statement, and it is my hope we could reach a short time agreement to finish that legislation on this day. The Military Construction appropriations conference report is available and should be addressed as well.

Having said that, we will have roll-call votes today.

## HONORING OUR VETERANS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, our forces for freedom encircle the globe.

Our military men and women will observe Veterans Day in almost all of the world's time zones. In the skies, on the ground, and under the water, they will pause to remember.

In a few moments, we, too, will pause to remember.

As Senators, we have had the opportunity to work alongside so many who served our Nation so ably, and so nobly, during our country's struggles on behalf of freedom—heroes such as Strom Thurmond and Bob Dole, heroes such as JOHN MCCAIN and Bob Kerrey, heroes such as Max Cleland and CHUCK HAGEL, heroes such as DAN INOUE. We have seen how they and others have sacrificed and suffered for a cause greater than themselves. Their nobility and grace, in war and in peace, stand as examples to all in our new century and in the new conflict we fight today.

We work in an institution that values unlimited speech—sometimes speech over everything else. But in my years of working alongside these heroes, I have discovered a lesson that runs true for all of them. To me it has been in these silences, the times they have not joined in with the majority of their colleagues, that they have demonstrated their strength.

Our Nation is a cacophony of noise, a symphony of sound, from that factory floor to the market floor, from Main Street to Wall Street. It is the so-called roar of democracy that makes us unique as a nation and as a country. But this morning we are called to silence. Why?

In our Nation's battles throughout her last two centuries, many have paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and liberty. This moment of silence we will shortly observe is the silence of those voices stilled forever, of sons and daughters no longer returning home, of husbands and wives no longer there for each other, of mothers and fathers no longer there for their children day and night.

In the pain of these sacrifices, our warriors have built our country and saved our world. They have stood as freedom's sentinel and as liberty's shield. They have fought the fights to which history has called us and won the victories that faith has dared us.

Our Nation is the beacon of liberty for so many people around the world, and it is the valor and dedication of the many heroes, sung and unsung, throughout the Nation's past 200 years—those who sleep forevermore—who have made it so. We honor them today not with noise but with silence.

As the hour of 11 a.m. approaches, I ask that we do observe this moment of silence.

I come from the great State of Tennessee. We have our share of hallowed war dead. We have our share of heroes, including perhaps one of the most famous Medal of Honor winners, Sergeant York. In a chain of events still astonishing today, he led a small squad of just 7 men in charging a machine gun nest mercilessly attacking his po-

sition, ultimately capturing 132 prisoners. An observer termed what he did "a call to courage."

I encourage every American today to also take a moment of silence and look for those who have answered that call to courage. All throughout our country, every day our veterans merit our support, our respect, our thanks for advancing the cause of liberty here at home and indeed around the world. They took what was granted to them by their fathers and, with their service and with their labors, they passed it on to their children, bringing America still free into a new century.

We pass legislation on their behalf to express the thanks—our thanks—of this grateful Nation. Today's silence is for them as well.

Now our country fights a new enemy, faceless and hateful. It fights in new ways, bringing new terrors and threats and intimidations to our fellow Americans. That is the final lesson our moment of silence teaches us this morning.

Together let's remember the strength of silence and, as we resume our labors here today, just as our Armed Forces work today around the world, let us move ahead with a little less noise and a little more fortitude.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished minority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, each year, America honors its veterans on this day with solemn pride.

But this year, Veterans Day arrives with uncommon poignancy. As we show our gratitude to our veterans here at home, a new generation of soldiers is thousands of miles from their loved ones, facing danger on our behalf.

There is an immediacy to this year's Veterans Day. The risks our soldiers are facing today have not yet been softened by memory. Without the filter of history, we see clearly the dangers they face every day when we learn of yet another attack on American soldiers, yet another death, yet another family that must go on without a loved one. At the same time, we see clearly the good that American service men and women can perform when we witness the hopeful faces of Iraqis eager for a better, more peaceful life.

Within the service of today's soldiers, we may see a clear reflection of the service of our veterans. Just as our soldiers today, our veterans, too, left families behind. They, too, woke up to uncertain dangers. They, too, saw friends and comrades injured or killed. Yet, knowing both their risks and their obligations, they, too, performed their duty each day.

Forty years ago, President Kennedy noted that no nation "in the history of the world has buried its soldiers farther from its native soil than we Americans—or closer to the towns in which they grew up."

At our proudest moments, the American people have sent our sons and daughters across the globe to fight for